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BOOK NOTICES

Souls in Khaki. (A Personal Investigation into Spiritual Experiences.) By Arthur Copping. New York: Doran, 1917. Pp. xxii+212. \$1.00.

In a prefatory note to this book General Booth of the Salvation Army advances the opinion that war is not wholly a descent to the levels of rapine and bestiality. He has been told by combatants that in the midst of the conflict with its storm of shot and shell they have been "more intimately conscious of the reality and presence of the Divine than in the quietude of normal life." Mr. Copping has made a tour of the Salvation Army huts where the men at the front are cared for in both body and soul, and the book is a brief yet telling record of his experiences. The author in his introduction confesses to a feeling of curiosity concerning the effect of war upon "gentle unassuming lads who had been brought up in a Sunday-school atmosphere." This feeling was amply satisfied in a visit to the trenches made possible by General Booth of the Salvation Army and with the permission of the War Office. In spite of the incessant and aggravating recurrence of adjectives—"piteous" seems to appear upon every other page—the writer has achieved a very readable war book and one that ought to find a place in the libraries of our Sunday schools. There is enough description and adventure to hold the interest of the youthful reader without the stark horror that so often renders war literature unsuitable for the adolescent. The main message of the author may be expressed in his own statement on page 157: "For this is the fact I want to report: those men and lads, like others I had met at the Front, were obviously sustained by a grace that issued from the unerring working of Divine Justice. They had surrendered all the joys of life, and stood prepared to surrender life itself, on the altar of liberty; and could it be otherwise than that they should reach a sure consolation? Moreover, our human perception gropes its way to a recognition of this guiding law of the universe: that joy has its roots in sacrifice, and that gain is ever in proportion to the giving."

The Appeal of the Nation. By George A. Gordon. Boston: Pilgrim Press, 1917. Pp. 87. \$0.75.

Dr. Gordon is foreign born, but he is a thoroughly identified, loyal American. In these five patriotic addresses he defines American freedom; appreciates the position of the foreign-born citizen; elucidates the relations of Christian and citizen; makes a strong plea for American loyalty; and closes climactically

with a moving appeal to our nation to appreciate its obligation to humanity. The author has his own way of putting clearly and forcibly the central things that are well understood by the informed, but which are apparently not at all understood by millions of well-meaning but misinformed citizens. The book ought to be widely distributed.

Religion in a World at War. By George Hodges. New York: Macmillan, 1917. Pp. 103. \$1.00.

In eight short addresses Dean Hodges brings as many messages of comfort to those whose hearts are sorely troubled. They answer convincingly the persistent question: "What is the position of the church in the present war?" The book is entirely popular and has been written out of a large experience. The last three addresses, "God and the World's Pain," "Pain and the World's Progress," and "The Everlasting Vitality of the Christian Religion," deserve especial mention.

Virgil C. Hart: Missionary Statesman. By E. I. Hart. New York: Doran, 1917. Pp. 344. \$1.50.

Dr. Hart was the founder of American and Canadian missions in Central and West China. "Of the six large cities in Central China—Chiukiang, Nanking, Wuhu, Kiu Kiang, Nan Chang Foo, and Hankow—all but one were opened under his direction." The volume begins with his early childhood, and his conversion under peculiar circumstances, and traces his career to its highly successful termination. This career was not only rich in achievement, but highly picturesque. The biographer, his son, has been able to portray it vividly. There are fourteen illustrations.

Revelation and the Life to Come. New York: Putnam, 1916. Pp. vi+216. \$1.00.

This anonymous volume is not a treatise on the subject indicated by the title, but the publication of a series of "messages" received by automatic or mediumistic writing from 1881 to 1886. To these are prefixed two essays, one on the significance of the resurrection of Jesus and the other on the Holy Spirit. An appendix contains other items from the communications. The editor believes that these show that "every spirit who has ever inhabited a human body is living and conscious today." Certainly the communications are on a much higher level of intelligence than those that are ordinarily available in the printed papers of the spiritists.